

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 10 and 11, which are objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to overcome the objection.

Claims 1-3, and 5-16 remain pending in the application. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In this regard the Examiner has noted that "a front part and back part" is vague and indefinite.

In response, claim 12 has been amended to change "a front part and back part at an upper end portion" to —a front face part and a back face part of the upper end portion--therein. Thus, claim 12 is now believed to be definite.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 6-12 and 14 are objected to because of the informalities therein.

In response, claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 12 and 14 have been amended to obviate the informalities therein according to the Examiner's suggestions.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Micinilio (U.S. Design Patent No. 441,912), claims 6-8 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Micinilio in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-095878, hereinafter “JP’878”), and claims 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Micinilio and JP’878, and further in view of Van Asten et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,386,631 (hereinafter “Van Asten”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define a structural feature of an embodiment and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art references. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to further recite that a part of the main body functions as a grip portion for a user to hold the shaver by hand, a side cross section of the part of the main body functioning as the grip portion has a substantially herringbone shape so that the vertex of the substantially herringbone shape protrudes forwardly, and the head portion is provided to extend diagonally upward to a side of the vertex of the substantially herringbone shape, from an upper end of the part of the main body functioning as the grip portion. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner’s attention is directed to, inter alia, the first full paragraph on page 9 of applicants’ specification and to canceled claim 4 of Applicant’s application.

It is a feature of an embodiment to provide a shaver wherein the contact area between the main body of the shaver and the palm of a user is increased, and the fine

adjustment of the angle of the razor against the skin can be easily performed without moving the wrist.

To achieve the above-noted feature, the shaver of the present embodiment, as recited in amended claim 1, includes, inter alia, a head portion comprising a razor having an outer blade and an inner blade on an upper end portion of a main body thereof. A front cross section of the shaver in its entirety has a torso shape having a neck portion narrowed in width at a substantially center portion in an up and down direction of the shaver, and a side cross section of the shaver in its entirety has a substantially S-shape, a part of the main body functions as a grip portion for a user to hold the shaver by hand, a side cross section of the part of the main body functioning as the grip portion has a substantially herringbone shape so that the vertex of the substantially herringbone shape protrudes forwardly, and the head portion is provided to extend diagonally upward to a side of the vertex of the substantially herringbone shape, from an upper end of the part of the main body functioning as the grip portion.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references relied upon in the rejections under 35U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a), considered singly or in any proper combination, do not disclose such a combination of features.

In particular, none of Micinilio, JP'878 and Van Asten disclose the above-noted substantially S-shape. Instead in the Micinilio reference the side cross section of the shaver is substantially C-shaped, and in the JP'878 reference the side cross section of the shaver is substantially I-shaped. Also, in the Van Asten reference the side cross section of the

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shaver is generally C-shaped.

In contrast, in the presently claimed embodiment the side cross section of the shaver in its entirety has a substantially S-shape, as noted above.

Further, in the present embodiment, the side cross section of the part of the main body functioning as the grip portion has a substantially herringbone shape, the vertex of the substantially herringbone shape is disposed at the front face side of the shaver, and the head portion extends diagonally upward at the side of the vertex of the substantially herringbone shape from an upper end of the part of the main body functioning as the grip portion.

In contrast, in Micinilio the side cross section of part of the main body functioning as the grip portion of the shaver has a substantially C-shape, and the vertex of the C-shaped grip portion is disposed at the rear face side. Further, the head portion extends upward diagonally at the opposite side of the vertex of the C-shaped grip portion.

Thus, Micinilio does not anticipate the presently claimed embodiment or render the presently claimed invention unpatentable, and, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of the references applied in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) can be properly combined, the asserted combination of the applied references would not result in the invention as recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks, and claims 2, 3, and 5-16 dependent thereon are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from the

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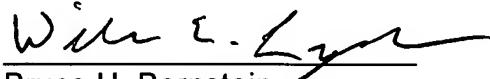
allowable base claim and also at least based upon their recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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